

CHESS

The incredible shrinking prizes

by Murray Chandler

THE IRREPRESSIBLE Aly Amin, London cafe-owner and chess fanatic, is back in the news again. Shortly after a high court injunction was served on him by Thames Television (for threatening to publish prematurely moves of the Kasparov-Short quickplay match) Amin announced he was holding a tournament. The "Chess for Peace" international, featuring the King Fahd trophy, was extensively advertised as having a world record prize-fund of £100,000. The first prize alone was to be £50,000. Around the world masters and grandmasters began making plans to attend this open-to-all-event, in some cases declining other tournament invitations.

Unfortunately many of them did not appreciate the small print of the Chequers Cafe entry form. It said: "The organisers reserve the right... to make any modifications to the structure, schedule and prizes which they consider necessary." As it turned out the organisers considered it necessary to make a drastic reduction in the first prize. A week before "Chess for Peace" began, representatives from Amin's Chequers Cafe were at the Lloyds Bank tournament in London distributing the "definitive" conditions and prize-fund. First prize was reduced to £4000, second to £2000 and third to £1000. These would still be quite good prizes for a normal event but would hardly have merited the global publicity accorded the original tournament.

According to Amin the promised sponsorship funds from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia never materialised and he had to use his own money to salvage the event. One version is that the Saudi reluctance stemmed from religious advice that the Koran frowns on such games. Not too surprisingly many prospective participants withdrew. On the first day spectators were barred as clocks ticked away (peacefully it must be admitted) on numerous empty boards. In spite of a £500 special prize for the highest placed woman, only one played. Undeterred, Amin announced he has a new sponsor and he plans to do it all again next year.

One of Aly Amin's more successful ventures has been the publication of several excellent-value books, such as the *Dubai Olympiad 1986*. Although

only five grandmasters played, he now plans a Chess for Peace games collection. This week's game will surely be one of the highlights.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE

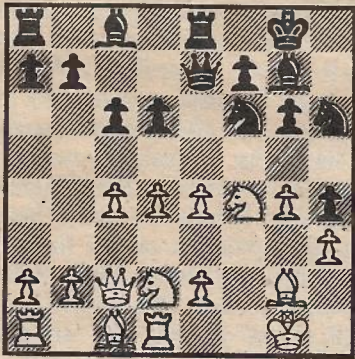
N BIRNBOIM (Israel)	J LITTLEWOOD (England)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. g3	Bg7
4. Bg2	O-O
5. Nf3	d6
6. O-O	Nbd7
7. Nc3	e5
8. Qc2	Re8
9. Rd1	e4!?

This speculative pawn sacrifice is not mentioned in leading chess books yet if White continues 10. Ng5 Black has the clever finesse 10... e3 11. Bxe3 Rxe3! 12. fxe3 Ng4 with a comfortable game.

10. Nd2	e3
11. fxe3	Ng4
12. Nf1	h5
13. h3	Nh6
14. Nd5?	

Rerouting the knight to the kingside turns out to be a bad idea. After 14. e4 Black still has to justify his pawn minus.

14. ...	c6
15. Nf4	Nf6
16. e4	Qe7
17. Nd2	h4
18. g4	



18. ... Nf×g4!
With this bold and thematic King's Indian knight offer Black tears into the White king's position.

19. h×g4	B×d4ch
20. Kf1	N×g4
21. Nf3	Be3!
22. Qd3	Q×e4
23. Q×d6	

Israeli international master Nathan Birnboim would dearly have liked to exchange queens. Unfortunately after 23. Q×e4 R×e4 24. Nd3 B×c1 25. Rd×c1 Ne3ch 26. Kf2 N×g2 27. K×g2 R×e2ch Black emerges with too many pawns for his piece.

23. ...	B×f4
24. B×f4	h3!
25. B×h3	Q×e2ch
26. Kg1	Qf2ch
27. Kh1	Q×f3ch
28. Bg2	Nf2ch
29. Kg1	Nh3ch
30. B×h3	B×h3
31. Rd2	Rad8
32. Resigns	

The only other choices are 31. Q×d8 R×d8 32. R×d8ch Kh7 33. Rd2 Q×f4 or 31. Qb4 Q×f4, both winning a bishop. A none too peaceful encounter.



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